his opening Address. The inelasticity of these rules has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Chief Engineer and the question of amending the rules is now under their consideration.

The question of the Government taking the Vembannur ryots' road will be referred to the Chief Engineer.

55. Restoration of irrigation tanks in the Vilavankod taluk.

Mr. R. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) brought to the notice of Government that there were 541 tanks in the Vilavankod taluk irrigating 8,491 acres of paddy lands and paying a tax of Rs. 49, 291 and odd. The Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072, classified all irrigation works into major, minor and petty. Under that classification, there were no major tanks in the taluk. There were about 100 minor tanks, the rest being petty irrigation tanks.

He then began to explain the object of Regulation III of 1072 and said that, though originally the responsibility of constructing, repairing and maintaining petty irrigation tanks devolved entirely on the ryots, it underwent a change with the result that Section 11 A was added to the Regulation, giving power to the Division Peishkar or any other officer duly authorised in that behalf to order the execution of a work at the cost of Government in the event of any accident being apprehended or happening to any petty or minor irrigation work.

So far as the Vilavankod taluk was concerned, the question of repairs was in his opinion vital. The question of maintenance would only be coming up later on. A G. O. had been issued imposing certain conditions on the ryots before the Government took up the responsibility of restoring such tanks and 4 tanks had been repaired under the provisions of that G. O. Though a special irrigation officer had been sanctioned for the investigation and preparation of estimates, more remained to be done and the Member suggested that steps be taken for providing Rs. 50,000 in the budget every year, since otherwise it might take 20 years before the people came to reap the benefit of the new scheme.

The Member then gave a list of the tanks which stood in urgent need of repair showing their extent, the area they would irrigate and the cost of repairing them and stated that, even if a sum of Rs. 50,000 was allotted every year, it would take 14 years to restore all the minor and petty irrigation tanks in the taluk.

His next request was that the principle enunciated by Government in regard to minor irrigation tanks should be followed in the case of petty irrigation tanks also, as otherwise the chance of the restoration of the latter classes of tanks would be far remote. The system of land tenures and the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance prevailing among the bulk of the people in the taluk contributed a great deal to the deplorable condition of those petty irrigation tanks, as the tenant was always in dread of deprivation of his land at the caprice of the Jenmi, and as the Karanavan by reason of his position did not care to spend any money on the improvement of the land. In the light of those circumstances, the Member requested that petty irrigation works might also be treated like minor ones.

President's reply.—A provision of Rs. 10,000 has been made in the budget for the current year's budget of the restoration of the tanks referred to. As you yourself have stated, a special irrigation officer for the investigation and preparation of estimates for the restoration of minor irrigation works has been sanctioned.

As regards the execution of works, two estimates have been sanctioned for the improvement of Karuppukulam and Nallurkulam, for Rs. 2,730 and Rs. 4,000 respectively, and the works are proceeding.

Some other tanks are also being taken up this year. The tank restoration work in the taluk will receive the needed attention at the hands of the Government.

56. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara Taluk.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) stated at the outset that he was glad that some of the subjects covered by his representation had already begun to engage the attention of the Government. Nevertheless

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly